



آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL COLLEGE

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
Admission Information 2023 - 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The University	3
The Medical College	3
Admission to the Medical College	4
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)	4
Who Can Apply?	5
Admission Process Summary	6
Requirements for Eligibility	7
The AKU Test and Its Equivalent	9
Application for Admission	10
Apply Online	12
Fees and Funding	15
Key Dates for 2023 – 2024 Admissions	16

THE UNIVERSITY

The Aga Khan University is a pioneering institution of higher education and research that works to improve quality of life in the developing world and beyond. We educate leaders, generate life-saving knowledge and set an example that raises standards in the societies in which we work. We empower women and the disadvantaged, strengthen pluralism and partner with world-renowned institutions to address problems that affect millions of people.

A not-for-profit institution, AKU was founded in 1983 by His Highness the Aga Khan. As Pakistan's first private university, we paved the way for the growth of the country's private higher education sector. In the early 2000s, the University expanded to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom.

At AKU, students flourish in a supportive environment that embraces diversity, demands excellence and encourages leadership and direct engagement with real-world challenges. Our graduates go on to study and work at eminent universities and organizations around the world, and to make a difference in their home countries.

AKU is open to all, regardless of race, religion, gender or geographic origin. Two-thirds of students and half of faculty members are women. Admission is based on merit, and our needs sensitive financial assistance programme ensures that individuals from lower-income backgrounds are able to attend.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGE

The Medical College, established in 1983, offers programmes that maintain high quality and flexibility which allows students to develop broadly and function effectively. The University attaches great emphasis to the professional, personal and intellectual development of students, so that its graduates become contributory members and leaders of society.

The programmes are designed to equip students with appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and behaviour necessary to understand and influence factors that affect the health of individuals and communities. The curricular objective of the Medical College also includes clinical competence in community settings and hospitals, as well as the assessment of health and prevention of disease in communities. This is through primary health care programmes monitored by AKU in a number of urban settlements. Agreements with leading academic institutions have contributed to faculty and curriculum development, student mobility and research affiliations in various fields. Institutions such as the University of Washington, the University of California, San Francisco, the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins in the United States and the universities of Alberta, Calgary, Simon Fraser, and British Columbia in Canada, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK, and the Catholic University of Portugal and NOVA University in Portugal, are just some examples of distinct, and innovative partnerships. These partnerships have enabled advanced training and research, promoting access to specialities and expertise, and opening up new opportunities in Pakistan and internationally.

ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL COLLEGE

Under its charter, AKU is open to all academically qualified candidates without consideration to gender, religion, race, creed, colour or domicile. Students from anywhere in Pakistan and overseas may apply. There are no quotas, reserved seats, or admissions against donations. Merit-based admissions are open to candidates from around the world.

Admissions to all University programmes are based on merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be assessed by several criteria including scholastic achievements, performance on an AKU Admission Test and interviews, productive use of time and other experiences indicating potential for leadership.

Fulfilment of basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline or any other outstanding achievement alone is not sufficient for selection. Candidates and their parents or supporters who expect their candidature to be strong enough to warrant selection are advised that the outcome of the selection process cannot be anticipated at any stage. Experience over the years has shown that competition for admission is intense. Candidates are advised in their own interest to apply to other institutions as well.

Every effort is made to select students from diverse economic and educational backgrounds. This is done in the belief that diversity in the student body greatly enriches the educational experience.

As English is the medium of instruction at AKU, candidates must be able to demonstrate competence in English comprehension and expression, both written and verbal.

It is in the best interest of students, particularly from overseas, to have a good working knowledge of Urdu. The University would also make necessary arrangements for acculturation and strengthening of language skills through coaching, where possible.

BACHELOR OF MEDICINE, BACHELOR OF SURGERY (MBBS)

The five-year MBBS programme emphasises on problem-based learning (PBL) and early clinical contact, with a gradual shift in focus to patient-based learning using best evidence practice in later years. The curriculum also incorporates current evidence-based medical education concepts and uses multiple modes of learning. Electives in a wide variety of subjects each year increase opportunities for broader intellectual development. Students will have opportunities to work in clinical teams at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), as well as in the national and community-oriented health services operating in urban and rural populations.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are accepted to the First Year of the MBBS programme only. The University does not accept applications for admission in advanced standing.

Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC / graduate / postgraduate education in the year of application by the dates scheduled for submission in this brochure may apply. Candidates must meet the following:

- i. The University's minimum academic eligibility requirements as provide by AKU and successfully completing the admission processes as stated in this brochure.
- ii. All candidates (in Pakistan and overseas) must also meet the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) requirements and regulations applicable at the time of admission to medical colleges in Pakistan. This includes:
 - Submission of valid MDCAT scores as administered by PMDC.
 - Meeting the subject requirements: The admission regulations as described in the PMDC notification (Admission regulations 2022) allow candidates who have passed biology, chemistry and either physics or mathematics in the Higher Secondary School Certificate or an equivalent 12th grade qualification recognised in Pakistan are eligible to apply to the MBBS programme. .

Candidates must meet any change in application requirements due to a revision in the PMDC regulations for 2023. Please review their website for details and updates: www.pmdc.pk

PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

The Aga Khan University will accept applications for the MBBS programme only from candidates who will be writing their final year examinations in Summer of 2023. All such applications will be evaluated for admission on a provisional basis. In cases where provisional admission is granted, candidates will be required to submit their pending HSSC examination or their graduation/postgraduate examination results in accordance with the minimum eligibility requirements by the dates specified in this brochure. The University does not process incomplete applications including those that do not meet eligibility requirements or are submitted, for any reason, after the deadline.

It is candidate's responsibility to ensure that the pending results are received in the admission office according to the published schedule.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Candidates to the MBBS programme, not successful in their first attempt may reapply for admission with additional information supporting their application. Candidate’s most current academic qualification will be used for evaluation purposes.

The University does not carry forward applications from one year to the next. Thus, a fresh application together with necessary documentation, must be submitted for any subsequent admission session.

From the 2024 academic year, candidates will be allowed a maximum of two attempts to apply to the MBBS programme. Following two unsuccessful applications, candidates will be ineligible to apply to the MBBS programme and are encouraged to apply for other University programmes, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. The University will accept, for the last time, a third attempt from candidates applying for the 2023 academic year.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

<p>Stage I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting an application online according to the eligibility requirements of AKU. • Writing the AKU Test or submitting its equivalent as explained in this brochure. Please refer to relevant section in this brochure.
<p>Stage II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews: Shortlisting of candidates is based on the applicable Test or its equivalent. The number of candidates interviewed is limited. Candidates will be required to attend two independent interviews. <p><u>Shortlisted candidates will be required to submit following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Application Form II: An opportunity to present your academic achievements, Extra-curricular’s, other interests and achievements.</i> <i>Two Reference Letters: References from teachers to be filled on University’s prescribed format.</i> <i>Submission of the valid MDCAT results as mandated by PMDC. Please review PMDC website for details: www.pmdc.pk Test results should be submitted as soon as candidates receive their result.</i> <p><i>Please note: SAT II and international MCAT will not be accepted as a substitute of the MDCAT to fulfil the PMDC requirements.</i></p>
<p>Final Selection: Shortlisted candidates are rank ordered based upon a comprehensive review of scholastic achievements, interview evaluations and other attributes assessed through documents provided.</p>	

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Medical College has no preference for any particular type of preparation and qualification. Candidates prepared in Urdu or English-medium institutions, in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC/graduate/postgraduate education in Summer 2023 and meet the eligibility criteria may apply. Candidates must present qualifications that are appropriate to the system of education in which they have been prepared. The University will evaluate applications on the basis of the candidate's achievements in the most current academic qualification.

Candidates from Pakistan and overseas who have pursued diverse curricula and present different qualifications are evaluated in comparison with others presenting the same or similar qualifications. During evaluation, no attempt is made to relate achievements in diverse educational systems to a numerical equivalent of the qualification in Pakistan.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The minimum academic requirements following different systems of education, to be eligible to apply, are outlined here. For further clarification, candidates are requested to write to mbbs.query@aku.edu

Pakistani System of Education

Premedical Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) with minimum aggregate of 70%.]

O-Level and Pakistani HSSC System of Education

- Satisfactorily completed Ordinary Level (O-Level) with at least **six** subjects including English, biology, chemistry and physics.
- Premedical Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) with a minimum aggregate of 70%.

British or Equivalent Advanced Level Certificates of Education

- Satisfactorily completed Ordinary Level (O-Level) with at least six subjects including English, biology, chemistry and physics.
- Advanced Level (A-Level) with at least a “B grade” in biology, chemistry and either physics or mathematics.

The SAT II, Advance Placements, IBCC equivalence or conversion of grades into percentage will not be accepted as a substitute for the Advanced Level grades. Advanced Subsidiary Level grades are not acceptable in lieu of Advanced Level grade.

American and Canadian High School Diploma

High School (Grade 9-12) with a minimum CGPA of 3.25 (on a 4-point scale); or 85% overall average; or an average ‘B’ grade as assessed by the home institution.

Candidates must have studied biology, chemistry and either physics or mathematics at High School level (from grade 9 through 12).

International Baccalaureate Diploma

Completed the International Baccalaureate (IB) with a minimum overall achievement of 32 points. Candidates should have studied biology and chemistry; and physics or mathematics at either the higher or the standard/subsidiary level.

Indigenous Higher Secondary School Certificates of Education

Candidates having studied in systems of education not mentioned in the earlier sections will be considered only if they provide evidence of satisfactory completion of a Higher Secondary School Certificate of education/equivalent with at least 70% achievement or equivalent. Equivalence from the IBCC stating that the qualifications are equivalent to the High School qualifications in Pakistan will be required.

Candidates should have studied biology, chemistry; and physics/ mathematics in their Higher Secondary School Certificate/equivalent.

Undergraduates, Graduates and Postgraduates

Cumulative grade “B” or a minimum CGPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale or have achieved at least 70% marks or equivalent, as assessed by their home institution in their degree examination, may apply. Candidates who are in the process of completing their degree in the Summer of 2023 may also apply, provided the final examination results/transcripts are available by the AKU submission deadlines.

In addition, all eligible candidates must have at least 70% or equivalent in their Higher Secondary School Certificate examination. It will be necessary for candidates to have read biology, chemistry and either physics or mathematics as mandatory subjects at the Higher Secondary School level.

For candidates who have completed or are in the process of completing two years of any undergraduate programme will be assessed on the basis of their High School achievement. These must be according to the eligibility requirements provided in this brochure for the system of education followed.

OBTAINING AN EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE

Candidates following systems of education other than Pakistani Higher Secondary Certificate must obtain an equivalence certificate from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). AKU will only confirm admission upon receipt of the IBCC equivalence and other requirements of admission as indicated in the offer letter. This equivalence certificate must state that their High School qualification is equivalent to the HSSC qualification in Pakistan with a minimum aggregate achievement of 70%. *For more details and updates, please visit website: www.ibcc.edu.pk or visit IBCC offices:*

Islamabad: Plot No. 25, Street 38, G-10/4, Near Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9106631.

Karachi: Plot No. ST-2, Liaquat Memorial Library premises near PTV Regional Office (Opposite to Liaquat National Hospital), Stadium Road, Karachi. Tel +92 21 99230583 / 85

For other cities, please visit: www.ibcc.edu.pk/contact-us/

<mailto:> **THE AKU TEST AND ITS EQUIVALENT**

Unless stated otherwise in this section, the AKU Test must be written by all candidates applying to the MBBS programme.

- **AKU TEST APPLICABILITY:**

Candidates in Pakistan and overseas, irrespective of the curriculum or system of education followed at high school / equivalent level; are required to write the AKU Test. This also includes candidates who have studied an undergraduate degree in Pakistan. Equivalent Tests will not be acceptable.

- **CANDIDATES WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR A HIGHER QUALIFICATION FROM OVERSEAS**

Candidates applying with an overseas (four year) degree, irrespective of their current residence are required to submit the MCAT written through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). A minimum aggregate score of 500 is required including a score of 125 in EACH of the four components: biological and biochemical foundations of living systems; chemical and physical foundations of biological systems; psychological, social, and biological foundations of behaviour; and critical analysis and reasoning skills. *For more details, please visit website: www.aamc.org*

THE AKU TEST: SOME DETAILS

Test questions are based on the Higher Secondary School Certificate curriculum in Pakistan. The curriculum is available within the Undergraduate Admission page at www.aku.edu/mbbs. Candidates are advised in their own interest to go through the curriculum provided. Candidates are encouraged to review the AKU sample test paper for additional information on the format of the Test.

The AKU Test comprises a section on physics within the science achievement section which also includes chemistry and biology. This section is mandatory to complete. In addition, the test includes a section each on science and mathematical reasoning. The questions in this multiple-choice exam are designed to test recall of factual information, application of knowledge, deduction and problem-solving ability.

The University does not provide any special preparation for its Test nor does it endorse or authorise any publication or preparatory classes for this purpose. The University reserves the right to evaluate the applications for shortlisting purposes on the criteria developed at the time.

VALIDITY OF TEST SCORES

The international MCAT written in 2021 and thereafter will be considered for admission to the 2023-2024 academic year.

The AKU Test scores are valid for consideration only in the year in which they have been written.

The validity of PMDC's MDCAT score is determined by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, visit: www.pmdc.pk

SUMMARY: Test requirements from candidates in Pakistan and overseas following different systems of education.

System of Education	Applying / Studying in Pakistan or Overseas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pakistani HSSC ▪ British ▪ American / Canadian ▪ International Baccalaureate ▪ Indigenous High School Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AKU Test for shortlisting ▪ MDCAT Test for final selection and to meet PMDC* requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undergraduate, Graduate & Postgraduate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AAMC [MCAT] for candidates with degree from Overseas ▪ AKU Test for candidates with degrees from Pakistan ▪ MDCAT Test for final selection and to meet PMDC* requirements (for all).

*For updates and details on PMDC requirements, please visit PMDC website for details: www.pmdc.pk

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission will be accepted between **March 12** and **May 4, 2023**. Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

Applications must be submitted via the online process. Applications will only be accepted if a candidate completes following:

1. Submit the complete application form online. *(Candidate will receive a copy of the application form on their email as a confirmation if the application is submitted successfully)*
2. Upload the receipt of application fee on the online portal.

Incomplete applications or submission of applications after the deadline is not accepted.

NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application eligibility requirements before applying. These are listed in the programme brochure. Moreover, candidates are responsible to complete the application and other requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule.

Aga Khan University reserves the right to admission; to revoke admission and registration if an application is discovered to be inaccurate or incomplete, or if supporting documents are discovered to be fraudulent. Any candidate who presents a fraudulent document in support of an application for admission may be identified to other universities and colleges.

ADMIT CARD

The admit card to allow you to write the test will be received by candidates who apply online on their portal and/or through an email.

In cases where the admit card is not received 12 days before the date of the test; candidates must email the Admission Office at mbbs.query@aku.edu for the required information and application details.

If a candidate would like to write the test at a different test centre from the one originally noted in the application form, candidate must inform the admission office via email at least 72 hours before the test so that information can be sent to the Test Centre. Walk in candidates are not encouraged.

Please Note: The University does not take responsibility to conduct the test for candidates who walk into a Test Centre without information.

Please note:

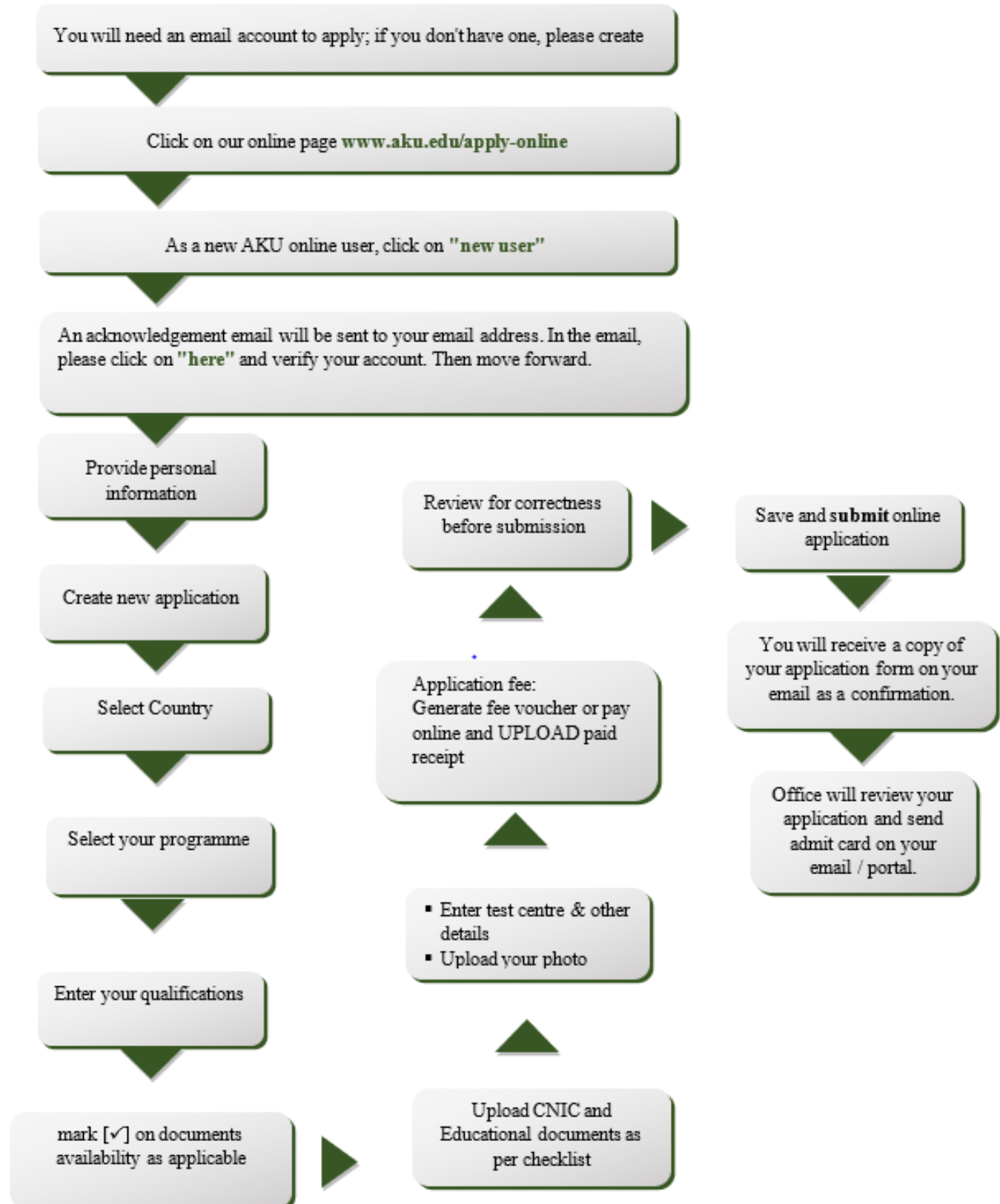
To be allowed into the Test Centre to write the Test, candidates must bring:

- A hard copy of the admit card issued by AKU **AND**
- A valid current photo ID card/original CNIC/college ID card/enrolment card for identification.

Without these documents, AKU reserves the right not to allow you to write the Test.

APPLY ONLINE

Follow the steps below to apply for an academic programme online:



Please Upload the following Documents when Applying Online

Note: The photograph should be in JPEG format with 2 MB size and all other documents should be in PDF format with 5 MB file each.

- Photograph (*see photograph specification section*)
- B-Form / CNIC / NICOP (*front & back copy*) or *relevant Passport pages (for foreign nationals)*

Application Fee: - **Applying from AKU residential countries*** is Rs. 7,000/-
- **Applying from AKU non-residential countries** is US \$ 150/-
- (*see mode of payment section for details*)

The application fee is non-refundable.
Candidates must ensure eligibility before applying.

*Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

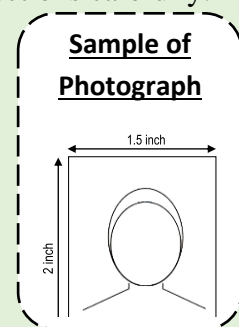
- SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript / equivalent
- HSSC mark sheet / A- Level general certificate / High School transcript / IB transcript / equivalent
- Undergraduate / graduate transcript (for candidates applying with a degree)

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully.

- Passport size coloured photograph with a plain background; taken within the last 1 week to reflect your current appearance.
- File size and format: 2 MB and JPEG format.
- The photo should show a clear front view; full face of the person.

If your photograph does not reflect your current appearance, the University will not allow you to write the AKU Test.



MODE OF PAYMENT

Candidates may pay the application fee through any of the following modes. ***When the fee is paid, please upload the receipt on the online admission portal to complete the application.***

- **FEE VOUCHER (FOR PAKISTANI CURRENCY ONLY)**

Please follow these steps to pay the application fee through fee voucher:

1. On the application home page, please click on “Application Fee Information”
2. For **payment options**, select “Fee Voucher”
3. Click “Yes” to generate the voucher (*make sure that your pop ups aren’t blocked*)
4. Take the printed voucher to any branch of Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) and pay the fee. (***Please do not transfer online***)
5. Upload the paid voucher by clicking the “Upload Button” on the proof of payment section.

- **ONLINE PAYMENT THROUGH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD (PAKISTANI & US\$ CURRENCY)**

Follow these steps to pay application fee online through a debit / credit card:

1. On the application home page, please click on “Application Fee Information”
2. For **payment options**, select “Online Payment” and click yes (*make sure that your pop ups aren’t blocked*)
3. Complete your payment details on online web portal: <https://payonline.aku.edu/>
4. Upload the payment acknowledgement email or screenshot by clicking the “Upload Button” on the proof of payment section.

In case you are unable to receive the payment acknowledgement, please notify the Finance Office by emailing your query along with tracking Id, name, and programme name at student.finance@aku.edu

FEES AND FUNDING

Admissions to all the academic programmes at Aga Khan University are based on merit and are needs blind, i.e. without considering the financial background of the student.

Upon acceptance into an academic programme, a student who is unable to pay for the cost of education at the University, may apply for financial assistance.

The financial information including student's fee-paying status, fee structure for the 2023-2024 session, and financial assistance is available on: www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding

AKU ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP (RENEWABLE)

The University will offer at least five full scholarships to students joining the MBBS programme. This scholarship is awarded on the basis of merit cum need as assessed by the institution. The eligibility criteria and other requirements are reviewed every year and decided by the University Scholarship Committee. There is no separate application form to apply for the scholarship. The University's decision is final.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in hostels managed by the University. These hostels provide single and shared, furnished accommodation. Hostel space is only available for students who do not have residential accommodation in Karachi.

A fee is charged for all accommodation. Accommodation charges for the 2023-2024 session is available online along with the fee structure. Meals may be purchased separately from the University's cafeteria. All students living in the hostels are expected to conform to rules and regulations. Residence is conditional upon proper use and care of the property, considerate behaviour and periodic reappraisal of the student's need for such accommodation.

CONTESTED DECISIONS

In all matters pertaining to the selection of students, fees, grants, evaluation of scholastic performance, discipline and student affairs, the decision of the University shall be final. Appeals in matters of student selection will be considered within 15 days of the announcement of the new class only if the appeal cites circumstances suggesting that the University has violated provisions of its Charter or that there has been failure to comply with the admissions procedure as described in this document.

KEY DATES FOR 2023-2024 ADMISSIONS

March 12 – May 4	Admission Open: Apply online via www.aku.edu/apply-online	
August 6	AKU Admission Test* -Pakistan	Test Centres Chitral, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sukkur
	AKU Admission Test* - Overseas	Chicago, Dar es Salam, Dubai, Edmonton, Houston, Iran, Kabul, Kampala, Khorog, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, and Toronto <i>(Additional overseas centres will be confirmed if there are at least 10 candidates to write the test)</i>
*Please note: Timings and address for the venue will be stated on the admit card. In case of a change, candidates will be notified through email.		
August 15	Last date for receipt MCAT international score sheet (As applicable, please read relevant section in this brochure)	
August / September	Shortlisting of candidates and interviews.	
August 28	Last date to submit attested copy of A level / High School or equivalent examination results / Undergraduate final transcript except for Pakistani HSSC result.	
September 25	Last date to submit attested copy of Pakistani HSSC.	
As released by PMDC	Submission of MDCAT results administered by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) for admission to Pakistan medical colleges.	
Upon Selection	If applicable, submission of IBCC equivalence certificate copy.	
January 2024	Commencement of Classes	

DISCLAIMER

This booklet contains information about the MBBS programme offered by the Medical College at the Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2023-2024. The information provided is subject to change and without written notice. Candidates aiming to apply for programmes in any other academic year are responsible for requesting updated information about minimum eligibility requirements, application and admission process by emailing mbbs.query@aku.edu

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan
Tel: +92 21 3486 4410/4412
Email: mbbs.query@aku.edu
Website: www.aku.edu